



Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS

Working for our Community



HONOURING THOSE WHO SERVED

Winter 2003

VOLUNTEER NURSE HONOURED WITH CIVILIAN SERVICE MEDAL

The Federal Member for Flinders, Greg Hunt MP, and the Member for Bass, the Hon Ken Smith MLA, have honoured the efforts of World War II volunteer nurse, Mrs Jean Herkes, presenting her with a *Civilian Service Medal*.

The Civilian Service Medal 1939-1945 is part of the Australian honours and awards system, recognizing the service of the civilians who served in Australia during WWII in organisations that were subject to military-like arrangements and conditions of service.

Mr Hunt said, "The valuable contribution made by many volunteers like Mrs Herkes during WWII is a great example of what it means to be an Australian."

"Her contribution to the war effort is a credit to her and made a huge difference to many people whom she selflessly assisted and nursed during those difficult years.

She has now resided on Phillip Island for 55 years.



Greg Hunt MP, Federal Member for Flinders and the Member for Bass, the Hon Ken Smith MLA, present Mrs Jean Herkes with a *Civilian Service Medal*.

A NOTE FROM GREG HUNT

Australia has a proud record of being a fearless and selfless contributor in these times of conflict. This record has been hard fought and won by the courage and sacrifice of our veterans.

We honour our war veterans and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice during times of conflict.

Your dedication, courage and bravery has ensured that generations of Australians can live within a peaceful and stable environment.

It is clear that Australian people realise that Australia can never fully repay the debt of gratitude we owe our veterans. However, we will continue to honour your service.

Regards

Greg Hunt MP
Federal Member for Flinders



Government Support



GOLD CARD EXTENSION

Hundreds more veterans within the Flinders electorate will receive free health care after the Howard Government extended the Gold Card.

Greg Hunt MP, Federal Member for Flinders, said the government had invested \$93 million over four years to extend the Gold Card to veterans who served in Korea, Malaya, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Gulf War and Timor on reaching 70 years of age.

This Budget measure means 4,000 veterans are now eligible for the Gold Card.

“This announcement will ensure our ex-servicemen and women are looked after in years to come,” Mr Hunt said.

Holders of the Gold Card are entitled to free treatment for all medical conditions- regardless whether they are war-related or not.

“Over time, thousands more local veterans will become eligible for the Gold Card as they reach their 70th birthday,” Mr Hunt said.



*Lieutenant General P.F. Leahy, AO
Chief of Army (CA)*

DEFENDING OUR FREEDOM

A strong focus of the Federal Government is to protect Australia’s borders and strengthen our nation’s defences.

The Howard Government is committed to securing the future of our nation and protecting the freedom our veterans fought to defend.

For more information

about protecting Australia’s borders, strengthening our defences and other Howard government initiatives, please call Greg Hunt’s office on

(03) 5979 3188

MORE SUPPORT FOR WAR WIDOWS

The Howard Government will invest an additional \$84.7 million to care for war widows.

In September last year, the freeze on the rate of Income Support Supplement paid to war widows was removed. It ended a long-standing inequity in war widows’ benefits.

Greg Hunt MP said making sure the needs of war widows are met is a core priority of the Howard Government.

“These remarkable women sacrificed so much for Australia and they deserve generous support, care and assistance. We thank them for their courage,” Mr Hunt said.



Veterans' Assistance



BAXTER VETERAN RETURNS FROM 60TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE MISSION

In November, Greg Hunt MP, welcomed Baxter resident, Mr Don McKay home following his recent visit to Papua New Guinea after representing Australia at commemorations marking the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Milne Bay and Allied attacks on Buna, Gona and Sananda.

Don McKay was one of 20 Australian veterans and war widows who attended the dedication of a major war memorial at Milne Bay and the unveiling of an upgraded memorial at Popondetta.

Mr McKay spent 30 years in military service, including postings to New Guinea, Vietnam, Port Moresby during the late 1950s as the last European



RSM, and London as RSM of Australia House.

Mr McKay won the military medal for service in Kokoda at age 19 and the Distinguished Service Medal for his service in Vietnam over 20 years later.

Popondetta was the staging point for the Australian and Allied attacks on the Japanese-held beachheads at Buna, Gona and Sananda, which began in November 1942.

The sacrifices made by Mr McKay and the soldiers on the Kokoda Track and at Milne Bay importantly saw Australian and Allied forces inflict the first defeat of Japanese forces on land.

LAUNCH OF WORLD WAR II NOMINAL ROLL

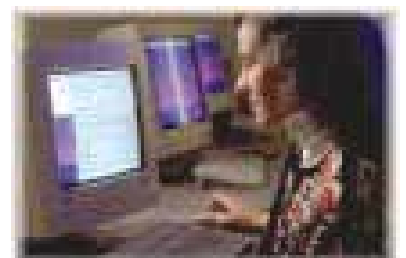
Families of World War II veterans will be able to go online to explore service records with the launch of an innovative website commemorating the service of Australians in World War II.

Greg Hunt MP, Federal Member for Flinders, said the World War II Nominal Roll would make information available about almost one million men and women who proudly served in Australia's armed forces and merchant navy from 1939-45.

"The nominal roll draws on the service records of Australians who enlisted during the war to provide a valuable snapshot of our country's wartime history."

"The website includes a search engine capable of searching the massive database by name, service number, honours received, place of birth, place of enlistment or town/suburb of enlistment."

The World War II Nominal Roll can be found at www.ww2roll.gov.au





Veterans' Assistance



PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Greg Hunt MP, Federal Member for Flinders, was delighted to present Certificates of Appreciation under the Federal Government's Saluting their Service program at the Hastings RSL.

In presenting the certificates Greg said, "These Certificates of Appreciation are one way that we as a nation can express our gratitude to those who served Australia in wars, conflicts and peace operations.

"I am extremely proud of the fine history of military service by many veterans from the Flinders electorate and I am pleased to be able to recognise the contributions of individuals in this way.

"In uncertain times, we value our Defence Forces more than ever. Servicemen and women put their lives on the line both in conflict and in the name of peace," Mr Hunt said.

Recipients of the certificates are:

- Kevin Robert Shepherd
- Joseph Vernan Ryan
- Robert Stanley Sampson
- Daniel Patrick Ryan
- Kenneth Richard Thorburn
- William Thomas Gore
- Kenneth James Barley
- Anthony William Henery Summutt
- Herbert George Pearson (posthumous award)
- David George Grieve (posthumous award)
- Robert Clive Burns (posthumous award)

In addition, Greg recently presented the National Service Medal to many veterans from within the Flinders electorate who had served Australia under the National Service Program.



Greg Hunt MP, presents Graeme Miller with a National Service Medal.



Greg Hunt MP, presents Certificates of Appreciation at Hastings RSL.

Applications for either Certificates of Appreciations or Award of the National Service Medal are available by contacting Greg Hunt MP on 5979 3188.